In the specification:

Replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4 to 7, immediately after "INCREASING RETRIEVABLE FLUID FORM A BREAST DUCT", with the following rewritten paragraph:

Cross References to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/827,371 filed on August 8, 2001, which claims the benefit of each of the following provisional applications under 37 CFR §1.78: 60/114,048, filed on December 28, 1998; 60/134,613, filed on May 18, 1999; 60/143,476, filed on July 12, 1999; 60/143,359, filed on July 12, 1999; and 60/170,997, filed on December 14, 1999. The full disclosures of each these applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing for intraductal retrieval of fluid, cells and/or other material from a breast duct of a patient, comprising:

administering intraductally to the patient an agent that increases ~~retrievable~~ the secretion of ductal fluid ~~from~~ into a breast duct, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hypotonic solution, a buffered solution, a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution, a protein, a colloid, a sugar, a polymer, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, glycerol, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, lactulose, polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, dextran 70, hydroxyethyl starch, fluid gelatin, a synthetic colloid, an antibody, a binding protein, albumin, a hormone, a natural herb, an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a surfactant, a growth factor, oxytocin, prolactin, an organic molecule, a muscle relaxant, and a ductal orifice dilator.

Claims 2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the agent is in a state selected from the group consisting of a non-liquid, a gel, an emulsion, a gas and a semi-solid.

7. (Cancelled) A method as in claim 1, wherein the agent comprises a carbonated fluid comprising super oxygenated fluid that is colder than room temperature before administration.

8. (Currently amended) A method ~~as in claim 1~~ of collecting ductal fluid from a breast duct comprising increasing the secretion of ductal fluid into a breast duct by the method of claim 1, and ~~further comprising~~ collecting a portion of the increased ~~retrievable~~ secreted ductal fluid from the breast duct.

9. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 8, wherein collecting comprises accessing a breast duct with a device and withdrawing a portion of the increased ~~retrievable~~ secreted ductal fluid into the device.

10. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 8, further comprising the step of analyzing one or more of cells, fluid or other material from the breast duct after the ~~retrievable~~ secreted ductal fluid has been increased and a portion of it has been collected.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein the step of analyzing comprises identifying a marker of a breast condition.

12. (Previously withdrawn) A method of collecting ductal fluid from a breast duct having artificially increased retrievable ductal fluid comprising accessing a breast duct with a device and withdrawing a portion of the ductal fluid into the device.

13. (Previously withdrawn) A method as in claim 12, wherein withdrawn ductal fluid comprises a plurality of ductal epithelial cells.

14. (Previously withdrawn) A method for increasing a retrievable cell amount in a breast duct comprising inducing cell sloughing within the duct by applying vibration to the duct.

15. (Previously withdrawn) A method as in claim 1 or claim 12 further comprising increasing a retrievable cell amount in a breast duct comprising inducing cell sloughing within the duct by applying vibration to the duct.

16. (Previously withdrawn) A method for preparing for intraductal retrieval of fluid, cells and/or other material from a breast duct of a patient, comprising:

administering to the patient an agent that increases retrievable secreted ductal fluid in a breast duct, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hypotonic solution, a buffered solution, a solution having a pH range of human tissue, blood or sera, a solution having a slightly acid pH, a solution having a slightly basic pH, a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution, a protein, a colloid, a sugar, a polymer, mannitol, sorbitol, glucose, glycerol, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, lactulose, polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, dextran 70, hydroxyethyl starch, fluid gelatin, a synthetic colloid, an antibody, a binding protein, albumin, a hormone, a natural herb, an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a surfactant, a growth factor, oxytocin, prolactin, an organic molecule, a muscle relaxant, and a ductal orifice dilator;

accessing the breast duct with a device and withdrawing a portion of the increased retrievable secreted ductal fluid into the device.

17. (Previously withdrawn) The method as in claim 16, further comprising the step of analyzing one or more of cells, fluid or other material in the breast duct after said administering and accessing steps.

18. (Previously withdrawn) The method as in claim 17 wherein the step of analyzing comprises identifying a marker of a breast condition.

19. (Previously withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein said administering is accomplished by a mode selected from the group consisting of administering the agent systemically, and administering the agent topically.

20. (Previously withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the agent is administered systemically.

21. (Previously withdrawn) The method as in claim 20, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, prolactin, a breast duct secretion inducing factor, a natural herb, an extract from a natural herb, silymarin, a growth factor, a vitamin, a protein, a muscle relaxant, and an organic molecule.

22. (Previously added) The method of claim 1 wherein the agent is a nonabsorbable biocompatible solution.

23. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and sorbitol.

24. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a sugar, glucose, sucrose, raffinose, fructose, and lactulose.

25. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneglycol (PEG), maltodextrin, dextran, and dextran 70.

26. (Previously added) The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an extract from a natural herb.